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The First Christian Church of Belen

About the year 1908 a small number of families desired to organize a church of their own religious faith — Thus the First Christian Church of Belen was born. These families included; Mr and Mrs J. W. Rose, John [redacted]. Craig, Rose Dodge, Amy Dickerson, Henry [redacted]. Davidson, [redacted], Evelyn Davidson, Mr and Mrs. Ray Claysworth. Brother Rose was it's first pastor. The group met in an old saloon building on South main St. Records are not clear but it is presumed this group disbanded in the fall of 1910.

In about 1929 a Christian church was organized which included both First Christian and Church of Christ. This group met in various rented [redacted] buildings for a period of 2 or more years. Brother Perry was the pastor. The First Christian members withdrew and continued to meet in the old Legion Hall which was located in the vicinity of main [redacted]. and Dallas [redacted]. Later they purchased a small building at 5th. and Castillo in which to hold services.

In the mid 30's the church, suffering

 First Christian Church of Belen

from the depression years, again closed it's doors. The building was sold for a laundry and the meager proceeds were left in the charge of trustee John W. Craig.

Another small group decided the time was right to re-activate the Church in 1949. Under the leadership of Howard Dillon the First Christian Church was organized on May 1, with 16 charter members. Brother Dillon was the pastor and services were held in his home. A building program, using proceeds from the former church, was undertaken immediately. Lot 1- Westland addition was purchased and work began on the building which was duly incorporated and which had it's dedication services June 12, 1949. Sunday School and church services have been continuous since that time.

Pastors who have served the Church at 10th. and Dillon ave., over the past 32 years include; Bros. J. L. Brimberry, Chester Williams, Malcolm Maston, Crawford, J. L. Farmer, Mark Weaver, John Rex Robertson, Carl H. Mullens, and Joe Stratman.

Under the leadership of the current

 First Christian Church, Belen

pastor, Joe Stratman, the congregation has, again, applied the slogan "Let us rise up and build," an addition housing 4 extra classrooms, a pastor's study, his and her restrooms and a child's nursery. is nearing completion as this ~~time~~ writing.

"We may be a small and, sometimes, struggling church, but we welcome you to come and check out our friendliness.

87

387 words by Ruth Craig

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First Christian Church of Belen
Organizers in 1908

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Jerry & Cindy Farr

BELEN CHRISTIAN
CHURCH

NEW MINISTER

JERRY FARR

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